

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 046982

FOLLOWING REPEAT DURBAN 0099 ACTION SECSTATE BONN INFO
CAPE TOWN PRETORIA JOHANNESBURG FEB 14.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L DURBAN 0099

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR,PDIP,PINT,SHUM,SF,GW
SUBJ: FRG ATTITUDE TOWARD TRANSKEI

REF: A. DURBAN 0068 (NOTAL), B. PRETORIA 789 (NOTAL)

1. RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH WEST GERMAN DIPLOMATIC AND
CONSULAR PERSONNEL IN PRETORIA AND DURBAN HAVE PROVIDED
INDICATIONS OF A FLEXIBLE FRG POSTURE TOWARD TRANSKEI.
ON THE ONE HAND FRG REPRESENTATIVES ESPOUSE PUBLICLY A POLICY
SIMILAR TO THAT OF USG AND IN LINE WITH EC-9 POLICY TOWARD
INDEPENDENT HOMELANDS. FRG DOES NOT RECOGNIZE TRANSKEI AND
SAYS IT REFUSES TO ACCEPT TRANSKEI PASSPORTS FOR TRAVEL TO
GERMANY EXCEPT IN "HUMANITARIAN CASES"; DISCOURAGES TRADE
AND INVESTMENT WITH TRANSKEI; CONDUCTS NO OFFICIAL BUSINESS
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BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS: AND PROHIBITS TRAVEL OF FRG
OFFICIALS IN TRANSKEI. HOWEVER ON OTHER HAND FRG OFFICIALS
IN SOUTH AFRICA APPEAR TO HAVE WIDE LATITUDE TO INTERPRET
POLICY AS ACTUALLY APPLIED. FOR EXAMPLE, FRG HAS ISSUED VISAS
TO TRANSKEI OFFICIALS WHO HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AT HIGH LEVEL
IN FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY. OFFICIAL GERMAN MISSION PERSONNEL
HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN PERMITTED TO "VACATION" IN TRANSKEI AND

TRAVEL THERE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS IF NECESSARY. THEIR PERSONNEL ALSO APPARENTLY MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH TRANSKEI DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PERSONNEL IN SOUTH AFRICA ON A FORMAL AND SOCIAL LEVEL FOR REPORTING PURPOSES.

2. FIRST COUNCILLOR OF GERMAN EMBASSY, DR. MICHAEL SCHMIDT, ACKNOWLEDGED TO PRETORIA EMBOFF FLEXIBILITY OF FRG POLICY. SCHMIDT STATED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT TRANSKEIANS, INCLUDING OFFICIALS, ARE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL TO GERMANY ON SOUTH AFRICAN PASSPORTS AND, FOR TRANSKEI PASSPORT HOLDERS, THE DEFINITION "HUMANITARIAN" IS BROADLY APPLIED. SCHMIDT ADMITTED THAT A FORMER TRANSEI GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL RECENTLY TRAVELED TO THE FRG FOR PURPOSES OF SOLICITING INVESTMENT IN THE HOMELAND. HE DID SAY THAT CASE WAS AN EXCEPTION. SCHMIDT SAID THEY DID DISCOURAGE TRADE AND INVESTMENT, BUT ALLOWED HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NO CONTROL OVER GERMAN COMPANIES AND THERE WAS ACTIVITY IN THOSE AREAS. ON GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, SCHMIDT SAID HIS EMBASSY WAS IN CONTACT WITH TRANSKEI EMBASSY OFFICIALS ON A FORMAL LEVEL FOR REPORTING PURPOSES. HE SAID THEY DID NOT INITIATE SOCIAL CONTACT BUT WERE NOT "IMPOLITE" AND DIDN'T REFUSE ASSOCIATION. SCHMIDT SAID THAT TRANSKEI OFFICIAL VISITORS WERE RECEIVED BY THE FRG, SOMETIMES AT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR AFRICA LEVEL. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT FELT THIS LEVEL DID NOT BESTOW ANY VESTIGE OF RECOGNITION. ON TRAVEL IN THE HOMELANDS, SCHMIDT SAID THEY AVOIDED IT EXCEPT AS NECESSARY, BUT ADDED PERSONAL OPINION THAT RESTRICTIONS WOULD

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BECOME MEANINGLESS AS MORE AND MORE HOMELANDS BECOME INDEPENDENT AND THAT, IN ANY CASE, WITH NO BORDER CONTROLS, ONE COULD BASICALLY IGNORE THE EXISTENCE OF HOMELANDS AND TRAVEL AS ONE PLEASED WITHOUT BEING CHALLENGED.

3. FRG VICE-CONSUL IN DURBAN WENT BEYOND SCHMIDT'S REMARKS, CONFIRMING THAT HE HAD TRAVELED TO TRANSKEI ON "VACATION" AND THAT HE COULD INITIATE TRAVEL TO TRANSKEI WITHOUT REFERRING TO BONN IF HE BELIEVED IT NECESSARY. HE STATED HE HAD INITIATED CLOSE SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS WITH TRANSKEI'S CONSUL IN DURBAN AND THAT HE REGULARLY MET WITH SENIOR TRANSKEIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO TRAVELED TO DURBAN. HE ALSO SAID THAT GERMAN TRADE WITH TRANSKEI, AS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, WAS GENERALLY FUNNELED THROUGH THE SOUTH AFRICAN-GERMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND CONSEQUENTLY THE FRG HAD LITTLE CONTROL OVER OR KNOWLEDGE OF GERMAN TRADE CONTACTS WITH TRANSKEI.

4. COMMENT: BOTH FRG SOURCES SEEMED TO SPEAK TONGUE-IN-CHEEK WHEN DISCUSSING FRG POLICY ON TRANSKEI. OUR CONCLUSION IS THAT DESPITE ADHERENCE TO EC-9 POLICY, EITHER GERMAN EMBASSY LOCALLY OR FRG ITSELF HAS ELECTED TO PUT LOOSEST OF INTER- PRETATIONS ON THEIR POLICY IN PRACTICE.

FARBER UNQUOTE VANCE

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